Vermont...
Keeping In Touch
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An Open Letter to the People of Vermont

From John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator
EPA-New England

As we approach a new millennium, it's appropriate to look back to the successes we've had in protecting our environment, but also to look forward to the next generation of environmental challenges. This report gives an update on some of the projects EPA-New England is pursuing to meet these challenges in Vermont.

Without a doubt, one of the biggest concerns facing Vermont's environment in the coming years is the problem of unplanned growth and suburban sprawl. From 1982 to 1992, Vermont lost 6,500 acres a year of open space to development and this pace is accelerating. Too much of the development is poorly planned, if planned at all.

Vermont is far ahead of many states in its efforts to manage growth: in Act 250 you have one of the strongest development control laws in the country and Governor Dean and his administration have made open space protection a priority, helping to forever conserve over 350,000 acres of Vermont farm and forest land. But there is much work still to be done.

That's why EPA-New England has made smart growth in New England one of its highest priorities for the future. With the help of a number of Vermonters, we have embarked on an ambitious four part action plan: to make sure that smart growth principles are followed in federal actions such as building transportation infrastructure, to encourage urban redevelopment (especially at brownfields sites), to give local communities the information and resources they need to plan for and manage growth, and to invest in open space protection.

The key to our success will be cooperation among environmentalists, developers and public leaders at the state and local level. So we are asking for your help and your cooperation. None of us can do it alone, but together, we'll be able to make sure that growth in Vermont will preserve, rather than destroy, the small towns and quality of life that make Vermont special.

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator
EPA - New England

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Photo: Erik H. Beck

Vice President Gore on the Connecticut River

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support the implementation of the Connecticut River Action Plan was celebrated in Cornish, New Hampshire on July 22, 1998.

The Action Plan identifies twenty-nine projects in the Watershed directed toward environmental protection, economic development, and cultural preservation in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Signatories of the MOU included 21 Community Project Sponsor Organizations, Administrators of 14 Regional Federal Agencies, and the Governors of the four Watershed States.

As part of the celebration, Vice President Al Gore and New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen led a canoe excursion down the River. As they passed under the Cornish-Windsor covered bridge, an American Bald Eagle was spotted soaring over the River Valley.

Vice President Al Gore, with EPA's River Navigators Dan Burke and Johanna Hunter, on the shores of the Connecticut River

A generation ago, there were no bald eagles in the Connecticut River Valley. Today more than a dozen pairs of eagles nest in the four states that make up the valley. The eagles that survive and thrive in the River Valley today serve not only as a patriotic sign of life coming back to new England's largest river, but also as an indicator of how much has been done by Community and Government partners to restore and enhance this vital resource.

Yet much of the work still lies ahead. More than 130 Municipal Combined Sewer Overflows continue to dump millions of gallons of sewage a year into the Connecticut River. River bank erosion in the Vermont and New Hampshire reach of the River has increased threefold since 1979. Even as the direct sources of pollution are eliminated, runoff from farms and cities in the valley continues to contaminate the waterway.

In short, the work ahead is daunting, but the reasons for optimism are many.

Individual communities along with organizations such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions have for years worked to win grants, pass legislation, and educate the public in their efforts to restore and preserve the River.

As Vice President Gore spoke at the gathering along New England's mightiest River and in the shadow of majestic Mt. Ascutney, he verbalized the link between environmental health and economic prosperity. "We are proving time and time again that environmental protection and economic growth are not opposed, that they go hand in hand ….We can do well by doing good."

Designation of the Connecticut as an American Heritage River brings federal recognition of the value of the River and a promise to focus resources on the community driven projects of the Action Plan.

As part of this promise, Vice President Gore announced $819,000 in federal grants would be coming to the Connecticut River Watershed this year from a variety of federal agencies to assist the Community Partners move forward with their environmental protection, economic development, and cultural preservation projects.

On July 1, 1999, a Core Group meeting was held at the Hooker-Dunham Arts Center in Brattleboro, Vermont. This well attended event was organized by the Connecticut River Watershed Council and the US EPA Regional Office. The Core Group is made up of the Community Project Sponsors, the New England Federal Partners, and elected officials from the four watershed states.

This kickoff meeting provided the opportunity for EPA's new Connecticut River Navigator (Daniel Burke) and Federal River Pilots to discuss how best to coordinate federal resources.

EPA Funds Mixed Plastics Recycling Facility to Service Vermont and New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Recycling Market Development Program and partner organizations will create a sustainable market for mixed plastic resins for Northern New England. The project will develop a recycled plastic manufacturing facility capable of utilizing up to 1500 tons per year of most types of scrap plastics not currently recycled including #3–#7 plastics and specialized manufacturing resins such as ABS, Lexan, sheeting, packaging, and computer housings. Portions of the grant money will be used to conduct an independent technical verification of the selected technology, in-depth feedstock and end product analysis, reorganization structure, business plan development and overall coordination of the project.

The project is a joint venture with Vermont and partners include: the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Rutland County Solid Waste District, NH Governor's Recycling Program, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association. The American Plastics Council has also committed funding and technical assistance to the project.

People Corner

Thanks and Goodbye to My Friends and Colleagues in Vermont

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all and to say goodbye. I truly enjoyed my work on environmental issues in Vermont. I learned so much about the issues, the people, the politics and "The Vermont Way." I will miss spending time in such a great state.

In early June I moved on to become the Manager of the Connecticut State Program Unit at EPA. I look forward to the new challenge ahead. I want to wish you all well and I will often remember the Lake Champlain meetings, Water Quality Standards Task Group, and the countless people dedicated to bettering the environment in Vermont.

—Lynne Hamjian

The New Vermont Unit Manager

On June 7, **John DeVillars**, EPA New England Regional Administrator, announced the selection of **Gerald C. Potamis** to become the Manager of the Vermont State Program Unit. Jerry has had a variety of management positions with broad experience under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and has a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston MA. He is also a Lieutenant Colonial in the US Army Reserves and assigned to the 804th Medical Brigade as a Preventive Medicine Officer. He served in Vietnam and was activated for Desert Storm. Jerry said,"I am enthusiastic about my new assignment and I'm looking forward to working with and learning from Vermonters."

Other new staff include **Lillian Frank** as the Administrative Assistant. Lillian has been with EPA since 1987 and was in the US Naval Reserves from 1988–1993.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We must say good-bye to **Sarah Blackman** who is leaving EPA to attend graduate school at the Boston University School of Public Health. Sarah was the Vermont Unit's Lake Champlain Basin Program coordinator. Sarah brought enthusiasm and excellent organizational skills to the position. She has worked at the EPA for more than six years, working primarily in the nonpoint source and animal feeding operation programs. She knew the true meaning of "partnership" and had forged strong bonds with all the key players in Vermont. We will truly miss her and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Lake Champlain Represented at International Lake Conference

Community leaders and practitioners from eight "great lakes" of the world convened at a workshop at the Lake 99 Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Representatives from Lake Champlain, Lake Baikal in Russia, Lake Laguna in the Philippines, Lake Ohrid in Albania and Macedonia, Lake Toba in Indonesia, Lake Titicaca in Bolivia and Peru and Lake Victoria in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania gathered to share experiences and learn from each other about managing large lake watersheds. Lake Champlain was represented by Buzz Hoerr, chair of the Vermont Citizen Advisory Committee for the Future of Lake Champlain.

The workshop was the first international gathering of LakeNet, a global network of people and organizations responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of lakes. While Lake Champlain had already established relationships with Lake Ohrid and Lake Toba, LakeNet allows for a greatly expanded capacity for exchange and learning. What is unique about LakeNet is that it creates a forum for lake *manager*s to interact, in a way that generally only scientists have been able to in the past. Proceedings from the workshop will be published in Lakes and Reservoir Research and Management, an international journal, and Lake Champlain will be one of eight lake case studies highlighted.

Plans are already being made for future LakeNet activities. A second workshop of 'great lakes' of the world is tentatively scheduled for 2000 and will be held within the Lake Champlain Basin. Additionally, a grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding is supporting a regional activity of LakeNet in Eurasia, in which five lake representatives will participate in a study tour of three regions in the United States, including Lake Champlain, to learn first hand about lake management issues. Lake Champlain, its resource issues and management strategies, are of interest to many around the world, and LakeNet provides a vehicle for exchanging experiences and learning from each other. Lisa Borre, previously the Vermont Coordinator for the Lake Champlain Basin Program, is the coordinator of LakeNet.

Clean Water Action Plan Update

Increased Congressional appropriations in support of the national Clean Water Action Plan this year allowed EPA to double Vermont DEC's normal funding for the state's nonpoint source program. Of the additional $723,000 granted to the state in 1999, approximately $300,000 has been passed on to eleven local water quality improvement projects selected through a competitive RFP process. These projects vary from streambank restoration along the Barton Brook in Orleans County to integrated crop management services in Rutland, Windham, and Caledonia Counties, to stormwater treatment in South Burlington. As of this writing, it appears likely that Congress will support comparable funding levels for the Clean Water Action Plan in the year 2000.

White River Receives National Recognition

The White River restoration project, sponsored by the White River Partnership and supported in part with 1996 and 1997 EPA nonpoint source funds, received national recognition this summer. The project was selected by a national panel to be one of twelve projects across the country that demonstrate exceptional state-of-the-art stream corridor restoration techniques. The designation is already attracting additional funds to the White River watershed. For more information, visit the project's new Web site: **http//www.epa.gov/owow/showcase/whiteriver**

Pownal to Receive EPA Grant

The Pownal Tannery Superfund Site, located in Pownal Vermont, has been selected as one of ten national pilot sites to participate in EPA's new initiative to promote the beneficial reuse of Superfund sites. The Superfund Redevelopment Initiative is intended to increase local involvement in determining appropriate reuses of Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites. EPA believes that local government involvement will complement existing State and EPA partnerships in site cleanup. EPA intends to encourage site-specific involvement by inviting political subdivisions, communities, and other involved parties to participate in discussions of the Superfund cleanup process.

To conduct this pilot, EPA will provide financial assistance to the town of North Pownal, through a Cooperative Agreement grant, to complete a Site Reuse Assessment. Cooperative Agreements can be used to award Superfund money to local governments to support EPA and State efforts in remedy selection, including predicting future use of the land.

EPA has begun cleanup at the site, including decontamination and demolition of tannery buildings and construction of a permanent landfill cover at the existing sludge landfill on site. It is anticipated that the bulk of the work will be completed in 1999. The landfill is expected to be fully completed by Spring of next year. In 1999 EPA will begin a Remedial Investigation to fully investigate the nature and extent of the remaining contamination at the site.

EPA looks forward to assisting local officials and community members of Pownal to identify potential future land uses at the site that will maximize social and economic benefits to the community.

For more information on these activities, please contact EPA's Project Manager, **Leslie McVickar**, at **(617) 819-1374**, through e-mail at **McVickar.Leslie@epa.gov** or visit EPA's web page at **http://www.epa.gov/superfund/recycling**.

Upper Connecticut River, Reconnaissance Project

The Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation (OEME), US EPA, Region 1 is conducting a Reconnaissance project along and near the Upper Connecticut River from July-September 1999. The Reconnaissance is a nontraditional approach to identifying and assessing multimedia investigation and assistance opportunities in a specific ecological or geographical area. This project is founded upon the concepts of community based and ecosystem based environmental protection.

There are two major goals for the Reconnaissance on the Upper Connecticut River: to protect public health and ecosystem integrity by locating and mapping pipes and nonpoint source discharges along the Connecticut River in the study area, and to compile compliance, deterrence, and assistance opportunities in four communities within the study area.

The study area for the goal of locating and mapping pipes and nonpoint source discharges along the Connecticut River will be from the border of Cornish/Claremont, NH to the border of Walpole/Westmoreland, NH. Both the Vermont and New Hampshire banks of the Connecticut River will be mapped. Tributaries to the Connecticut River will not be included in the study area. For the goal of compiling compliance, deterrence, and assistance opportunities the study area will be: Claremont, NH; Newport, NH; Springfield, Vermont; and Bellows Falls, Vermont.

The process generally implemented in the reconnaissance involves: reviewing EPA and State media (water, waste, air, etc.) databases, other federal Agency's databases (e.g. OSHA), and municipal databases (e.g. POTW); obtaining information from business directories, phone books, etc.; interviewing local officials and environmental groups; field reconnaissance (both on the water and land) and compiling a report with follow-up recommendations. This process identifies opportunities for the EPA to utilize its limited resources for inspections, permitting concerns, Superfund responses, assistance and outreach, and to make referrals to the appropriate agencies (federal, state, or local) for issues/concerns where EPA has no jurisdiction.

Trout River Field Day

In April, EPA staff (Beth Alafat, Eric Perkins and Mark Voorhees) participated in a field meeting in Montgomery, Vermont for the purpose of introducing federal and state technical staff to the Trout River restoration project. The discussion was led by Mike Kline and Barry Cahoon of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and Eric Derleth of US Fish and Wildlife Service, and focused on the Vermont DEC Rivers Management program, the history of the Trout River channel instability, project objectives, and the channel design process. The Trout River project engineers hope to restore a one mile reach of the Trout River to its stable dimension using designs based on a stable stream morphology. The restoration design considers the principal watershed characteristics that determine a stream's morphology including, drainage area, hydrology, sediment load, channel substrate, and valley slope to name a few. The restoration will result in better trout habitat with more riffles and deeper pools and vegetative buffers for stable stream banks and wildlife habitat. The project will also result in greater recreation opportunities including fishing, boating and swimming and should reduce phosphorus loadings to Lake Champlain.

Trout River, Montgomery

The Trout River Demonstration Project is the first of its kind for New England and will be watched closely by federal and state biologists and engineers. EPA is especially interested in this project because of the excessive sedimentation in the Trout and Mississquoi Rivers. Sedimentation is a leading cause of impairments in the nation's waters.

Federal Agencies are Doing Their Part to Protect Lake Champlain

The Vermont Unit staff involved with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) prepared a booklet in June 1999 titled: "Opportunities for Federal Action: Showcasing Federal Agencies Working to Improve Lake Champlain." Seven federal agencies involved with the LCBP contributed to the development of this publication. Its purpose is to highlight the work of federal agencies improving the Lake, and to explain federal challenges associated with reducing phosphorus; toxic substances; and nonnative nuisance aquatic plants and animals in the Lake.

As background, Congress initiated a long term protection program for the Lake with the passage of the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act in 1990. The Act required that a protection plan for the Lake be developed by a broad committee of representatives, considering water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreational and cultural resource issues. In 1996, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Lake Champlain Basin*, was approved by the Governors of New York and Vermont and by the EPA.

In support of this legislation, federal agencies dedicated a significant amount of funding to the effort. In fact, more than $150 million was spent by federal agencies since 1990 on research, demonstration projects, treatment plant upgrades, air and water monitoring, assistance, harvesting of nonnative nuisance aquatic plants, and cultural and recreational projects. Another important contribution made by federal agencies to the Lake is technical assistance, which has included nutrient management strategy development, implementation of in-stream restoration projects, data analysis services, and air and water monitoring program management.

The seven federal agencies – US Department of Agriculture, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish &Wildlife Service, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and US Geological Survey – are now developing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a formal framework for cooperation. Through the MOU, federal agency roles will be more clearly defined with respect to consistency, and will help to advance progress in the areas of coordinating federal programs, providing incentives to comply with regulations, developing tools, providing technical assistance, granting federal funds, and facilitating results in the Lake Champlain Basin.

If you would like a copy of the booklet, please call **Lillian Frank** at EPA at **(617) 918-1689**. If you would like more information about LCBP, please call **(802) 372-3213**.

Lake Memphremagog Agricultural Water Quality Project Underway

Photo:Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing

The EPA recently awarded $250,000 to assist farmers in their efforts to control polluted runoff in the Lake Memphremagog watershed. The Orleans County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Council are administering the grant, which is supplementing USDA and state financial assistance to farmers in the watershed. Funds are being used to construct manure storage facilities, prevent runoff from barnyards, and establish a crop management service for participating farmers. The crop management service will offer professional assistance to farmers in developing and implementing nutrient management plans, including soil and manure testing, yield analysis, record keeping and grazing management.

State Revolving Fund Update

Clean Water
State Revolving Fund

New Goals for the Clean Water SRF

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) was established by the federal Clean Water Act and authorized for use in Vermont by state law in 1987. The total size of the fund in Vermont through 1998 is $86,402,562. The purpose of the fund is to provide loans to municipalities for improvements to waste water treatment plants, and to control nonpoint source pollution. Vermont currently invests 100% of these funds in municipal treatment plant improvements. Administered by Vermont ANR, financing is offered to municipalities in the form of zero interest loans that are repaid over a term of up to twenty years.

The President's Clean Water Action Plan calls for states to invest up to 10% of the CWSRF in nonpoint source pollution projects by 2001. This would represent a substantial increase in funds for nonpoint source projects in Vermont, but would require an amendment to Vermont law (Act 75 of 1987) which currently restricts the use of the CWSRF to municipal treatment plant improvements.

Drinking Water SRF Update

The Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program continues to provide assistance to eligible water systems to finance the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or to maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and to protect public health. As of July 1999, Vermont's DWSRF program has executed 31 loans to eligible public and private drinking water systems totaling $11,345,213.

For More Information: The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Branch; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street, SW (Mailcode 4204); Washington, D.C. 20460 ; Phone (202) 260-7359; Fax: (202) 260-1827; e-mail:srfinfo@epa.gov; Internet: http//www/epa.gov/OWM

Vermont's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Vermont Department of Health educates homeowners, renters, landlords and building maintenance personnel about unsafe renovations which disturb lead paint in pre-1978 housing and schools. The Pre-Renovation Lead Information Rule, effective June 1, 1999, instructs contractors who disturb more than two square feet of lead paint surface to give notice to affected parties. As part of a major public education campaign to support this rule, EPA has provided partial financial support to the Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Trainers Educate 7500 in Safe Paint Repair

Beginning in September 1996, twenty-two educational organizations working with the Vermont Department of Health trained apartment and childcare facility owners about the requirements of Vermont's Lead Poisoning Prevention Law (Act 165). The three-hour training course covers the law's EMPs (Essential Maintenance Practices) requirements for rental housing and childcare facilities built before 1978.

The Department of Health collaborated with experts in the fields of lead abatement, housing, health, and education to develop the EMP curriculum. Topics include health effects, paint repair, specialized cleaning steps, visual inspections, window well inserts, and reporting requirements.

The EMP instructors are part of vocational-technical centers and private training businesses that provide statewide availability of the course. Approximately 7,500 individuals have completed the course. It is estimated that 12,000 owners may need the training course.

Vermont Drinking Water Week

Congratulations and many thanks go out to the Vermont Drinking Water Week Committee and the many sponsors that made the activities of May 6 such a great success. The Water Fair and Awards ceremony was held on the State House Lawn. There were 120 elementary students, including home schooled children, from all over the state who enjoyed learning about all aspects of drinking water.

***Drinking Water Week Commitee*— Back Row:** *Tom Clark, Northeast RCAP; Alison Stern, AmeriCorps Volunteer; Carolyn Lawrence, USDA; Barbara McGonagle, EPA; David Harris, E.J.Prescott; Susan Martin, Vermont DPT Public Service.* **Front Row:** *Linda Marek-Howe, UVM Extension Service; Shaun Fielder, NeRWA; Tony Ciccarelli, US EPA; Elizabeth Walker, NeRWA; David Howe, Exe. Dir. NeRWA: Missing is Benson Sargent, Vermont DEC.*

Students had an opportunity to watch a performance by the National Theater for Children in the Pavilion Auditorium. The performance was "Alice in Waterland", highlights of which encouraged water conservation. When the students were not enjoying the performance they were visiting many of the educational displays set up to answer questions from a questionnaire they were given prior to visiting the displays. Successful completion of the questionnaire entitled them to an ice cream donated by Ben and Jerry's.

At 12:15 that day, Lt. Governor Douglas Racine read the proclamation designating May 2–8 as Vermont Drinking Water Week, then proudly announced the winners of the Drinking Water Week Poster Contest.

A special awards presentation was made to three recipients of EPA's Environmental Educator of the Year. This award recognizes individuals who excel in drinking water education; the recipients this year are Linda Marek Howe from UVM Extension, Kathleen Sullivan from the Warren School and Linda Tucker from the Woodbury Elementary School. Lynne Hamjian, the former manager of the Vermont State Program Unit at EPA, presented these awards.

Vermont Drinking Water "Factoids"

1 There are approximately 1400 Public Water Systems (PWS) in Vermont, of which 462 are the Public Community type.

2 Over 75% of Vermont's Public Community Water Systems (346) serve less than 500 persons. Over 94% (433) of the systems serve less than 3300 persons.

3 On average, Vermonters use over 38.7 million gallons of drinking water each day.

4 Since 1966, the State of Vermont has awarded over $78 million in state and federal grants to municipally-owned water systems involving 172 capital improvements projects.

5 Over $104 million in total state financial aid has been awarded to all Vermont Public Water Systems, regardless of ownership.

6 The capital cost of adding treatment facilities in Vermont for the treatment of chemically (man-made) contaminated drinking water has ranged from $125,000 (a PWS serving 42 persons), to $850,000 (a PWS system serving 3200 persons).

7 The capital cost of source replacement in Vermont caused by chemically (man-made) contaminated drinking water has ranged from $1.5 million to $3 million per water system.

8 More than 475 Public Water Systems in Vermont have adopted Source Protection Plans to prevent the contamination of their source water.

9 All well drillers in Vermont are required to file well log reports with the state on all completed wells. Since 1966, there have been over 70,000 well log reports filed with the State of Vermont.

0 All but one of Vermont's municipal water systems served by surface water filter the raw water. Filtration/treatment facilities for the remaining system (surface water) is currently under construction, and will be operational in the spring of 2000.

For more information on drinking water issues, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater**

Pollution Prevention Programs Gain Momentum

The EPA and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) support a variety of programs that provide assistance to businesses to prevent or reduce pollution. In this issue, we highlight two of these programs.

Vermont Business Environmental Partnership Program

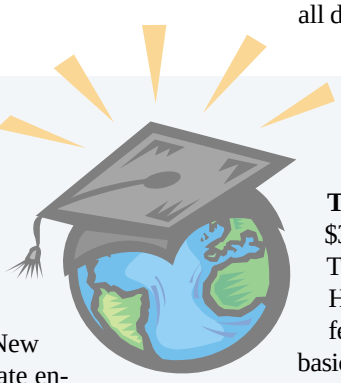
This program, sponsored by the Vermont Small Business Development Center and the Environmental Assistance Division of the Vermont ANR assists businesses in adopting environmentally friendly management that goes beyond compliance with regulations. The program uses waste reduction, energy conservation and pollution prevention methods, and helps give participating businesses the good PR (recognition) they deserve. Initially the program has focused on the less regulated, but high waste generating lodging sector with its Green Hotels in the Green Mountain State initiative. Currently there are 42 hotels, inns and Bed and Breakfasts participating in the program and 18 have already been designated Green Hotels. Participants' resource use and waste generation are tracked, and new practices are implemented to demonstrate that good environmental management practices just make good business sense and can save them money and expand markets. The program will be expanded into other sectors in the future.

Vermont Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Pilot Project

The Vermont ANR and the Vermont Small Business Development Center jointly administer an EPA Pilot project to deliver environmental management training to smaller businesses. A half dozen Vermont companies participated in a series of EMS trainings, designed to help them develop an appropriate sized EMS for their company, and prepare them for ISO 14001 certification, if desired. Third party certification to the ISO14001 standard can add value to an organization's EMS by providing an objective, unbiased system review, by ensuring management commitment to the system, and by signaling to suppliers, customers, and other stakeholders that the organization has made a demonstrable commitment to managing its environmental affairs.

This two-year project will hopefully help to demonstrate the usefulness of an EMS for smaller businesses. All of the companiessuccessfully completing the project will have the basic EMS elements in place by the completion of the project. In addition to identifying their environmental impacts, and developing a management plan to reduce significant ones, they will now also have written operational procedures and controls for environmentally sensitive operations. An EPA subcontractor is compiling and analyzing all data from this multi-state project.

Environmental Education Grant Awards



The EPA funded three projects in Vermont this year through the competitive environmental education grant program. This program has supported innovative environmental education projects throughout New England since 1992. Eligible applicants include: state environmental or education agencies; local or tribal education agencies, public, private, or parochial schools, college, and universities; not-for-profit organizations, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entities.

Award Recipients

Shelburne Farms and the National Wildlife Federation received $14,550 for their collaborative project titled "People and The Northern Forest: A Sustainable Relationship." This project will deliver a series of workshops to fourth through eighth grade teachers, providing them with the skills and knowledge to develop curriculum that inspires students to become active forest stewards. The program will provide ongoing professional support to participating teachers, assisting with the integration of Northern Forest issues into their curriculum while meeting the objectives outlined in the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities. Workshops will accommodate 120 educators, thus reaching 3,000 students annually.

The State Department of Health received $3,820 for indoor air quality education in schools. The project will use existing Department of Health staff to train a representative teaching professional from the pilot supervisory union on basic indoor air quality and ventilation issues. With this training, initial concerns will be addressed by the school at the local level and an indoor air quality management plan will be established. The indoor air quality coordinator will also be responsible for incorporating what was learned into the supervisory union's health education curriculum.

The Winooski Valley Park District in Burlington received $4,000 for the "State of the Winooski Basin Environmental Education Program and Youth Conference." This project will elevate awareness of the many values of wetlands, including their role in phosphorus trapping. It will complement and build on existing educational resources, teaching students a variety of hands-on skills that can be applied to real-life, such as: how land use affects environmental quality, mapping, quantitative water monitoring, professional letter writing, public speaking, and how the political process works.

If you would like more information on this program or wish to receive next year's request for proposals, contact **Barbara McGonagle** at **617-918-1608** or **Kristen Conroy** at **617-918-1069**.

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Check out EPA's Web site at **http://www.epa.gov/region01**

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